



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

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Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor

Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary

August 24, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Broughton Hospital Staff
Cherry Hospital Staff
Central Regional Hospital Staff

FROM: Secretary Cansler 

RE: Transfer of Patient Services from Dorothea Dix Hospital

As you know, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has been confronted with major budget reductions over the last two years. For the current fiscal year, no funds were appropriated by the General Assembly to operate Dorothea Dix Hospital, and we have been forced to make some very difficult decisions to address this shortfall.

In order to reduce unfunded hospital expenditures, we have determined to relocate patient services to Central Regional and Cherry Hospitals. Adult long-term beds, the Forensic Maximum Unit, the Forensic Medium Unit, and the Pre-Trial Evaluation Unit, 60 adult admission beds and the Clinical Research Unit will be moved to CRH. Cherry Hospital will increase its current census by 30 adult long term beds. Additionally, Broughton Hospital will add 15 adult admission beds by the end of the year to ease admission delays.

These changes, which will occur during the first half of this fiscal year, will leave the Forensic Minimum Unit and Child Outpatient Clinic on the Dix campus under the direction of CRH.

Dix positions assigned to the services that are moved will relocate to CRH with the patients, and we are hopeful that staff in these positions will choose to transfer with the positions. While most staff at Dix can be accommodated at CRH, there are some manager and one of a kind positions that will not be relocated to CRH. For those employees who cannot be accommodated at CRH or choose not to relocate with their positions, DHHS will assist with placements at other facilities or agencies in DHHS, where possible. DSOHF Director Luckey Welsh is instructing nearby state operated facilities to prioritize hiring of Dix staff who are not relocating to CRH. Cherry and Broughton Hospitals will be hiring additional staff to ensure high quality care and treatment for patients as bed capacity is added. Your Hospital Director will keep you informed as the transition plan progresses at each of the hospitals.

Dorothea Dix Hospital has a proud and honored history of service to citizens of North Carolina with mental illness dating to 1856. I want to personally thank the staff at Dorothea Dix Hospital for providing outstanding care and treatment to the residents of south central North Carolina. I also want to thank the employees at CRH, Cherry Hospital and Broughton Hospital for the quality care and treatment you have and will continue to provide to patients in your hospitals during this transitional period.

